

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 /158 W

-----041601Z 072890 /41

P 041525Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3879

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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, LOS

SUBJ: LOS SITREP, JUNE 2

1. COMMITTEE I -- AN ALGERIAN (ALOUANE) POLEMIC FAILED TO DISRUPT THE GENERALLY WORKMANLIKE PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE I TODAY. THE HALF-HOUR INTERVENTION OPENING THE MORNING SESSION WAS LESS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS CONTENT -- WHICH WAS ANTI-WESTERN BOILERPLATE -- THAN FOR THE REACTION IT EVOKED FROM MOST G-77 DELEGATES -- WHICH WAS TO IGNORE IT.

2. ALOUANE REJECTED PARALLEL SYSTEM PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION AS A FORM OF NEO-COLONIALISM, IN WHICH A FEW WEALTHY COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO EXPLOIT THE SEABED IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL OF MANKIND. HIS COUNTRY WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO BLOCK THE PARALLEL SYSTEM AND STATE ACCESS RIGHTS TO THE SEABED. HE INSISTED THAT ONLY A UNITARY STSTEM WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE,
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ADDING THAT THE FULL DISCRETIONARY POWER OF THE AUTHORITY AND INDIVISIBILITY OF THE SEABED WERE NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES.

3. IN AN INDIRECT REBUKE TO ALGERIA, SINGAPORE (KOH) AND INDIA (BHUSHAN) FOLLOWED CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF THE POLEMIC WITH MODERATE-TONED STATEMENTS WHICH SOUGHT TO

IDENTIFY AVENUES OF ACCOMMODATION ON THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION. ALTHOUGH THEIRS AND OTHER G-77 INTERVENTIONS REFLECTED PERSISTENT AND SUBSTANTIAL DIVERGENCE WITH US POSITIONS ON ARTICLE 22 (SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION), THE DEBATE CARRIED ON IN MAINLY CONCRETE, RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL, TERMS. THE ONLY COMMENTS SUPPORTIVE OF ALGERIA CAME LATER IN THE DAY FROM TANZANIA.

4. THE DEBATE ON ARTICLE 22 CONCLUDED WITH G-77 DELEGATES INCLUDING THOSE OF COLOMBIA, MALAYSIA AND KENYA EXPRESSING PREFERENCE FOR THEIR OWN TEXT (WHICH SETS UP BASICALLY A UNITARY SYSTEM) BUT INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER COMPROMISE FORMULATIONS, SUCH AS THE EVENSEN TEXT.

5. THE EVENSEN TEXT ON ARTICLE 23 (NON-DISCRIMINATION) PROVED GENERALLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION, TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE ANTI-MONOPOLY/QUOTA ISSUE, SUGGESTED AMENDING ARTICLE 23 TO INSURE PARTICIPATION OF ALL SOCIAL SYSTEMS IN MINING. CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SPEAKING FOR LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES (LL/GDS), ALSO PROPOSES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR DEVELOPING LL/GDS.

6. IN THE FIRST EVENING SESSION, THE GROUP DISCUSSED OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE EXPLOITATION SYSTEM, CONTAINED IN ANNEX 1. MEXICO (CASTANEDA) PROPOSED A NEW PROVISION WHICH WOULD GIVE THE AUTHORITY DISCRETION TO REQUIRE A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR TO ENTER A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE ENTERPRISE ON A RESERVED SITE, A A CONDITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DIRECT ACCESS TO THE CORRESPONDING NON-RESERVED SITE. CASTANEDA ASSERTED THAT HIS PROPOSAL WOULD INSURE A VIABLE ENTERPRISE AND BALANCED PRODUCTION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PARALLEL SYSTEM. IT WOULD ALSO PROMOTE EVENTUAL CONVERGENCE INTO A UNITARY SYSTEM, HE SAID.

7. MEANWHILE, COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN ENGO HAS REMAINED IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT HE IS MAKING WIDE-RANGING PRIVATE CONTACTS, AND THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW HE WILL HANDLE A REVISED EVENSEN TEXT WHEN IT IS PRESENTED TO HIM NEXT WEEK. ENGO IS SAID TO BE PRIVATELY ENCOURAGING THE IDEA OF A UNITARY JOINT VENTURE SYSTEM, IN CONTRAST TO THE BASICALLY PARALLEL SYSTEM THAT IS THE FOCUS OF THE EVENSEN WORKING GROUP. IF TRUE, IT WOULD BE AN IRONIC TURNAROUND FOR ENGO, WHO WAS CRITICIZED BY HIS G-77 COLLEAGUES FOR ENSHRINING THE PARALLEL SYSTEM IN THE RSNT LAST YEAR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, SEABED, DEBATES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770200-0112
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770689/aaaadaly.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a496b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2271642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS SITREP, JUNE 2
TAGS: PLOS, XX, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a496b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009